

HOUSE No. 3656

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jennifer Benson

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to a special education services for low incidence populations.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Jennifer Benson	37th Middlesex
Ellen Story	3rd Hampshire
William N. Brownsberger	24th Middlesex
Carl M. Sciortino, Jr.	34th Middlesex
Tom Sannicandro	7th Middlesex
Kate Hogan	3rd Middlesex
Alice K. Wolf	25th Middlesex
Sean Garballey	23rd Middlesex
Jennifer L. Flanagan	Worcester and Middlesex
Barbara A. L'Italien	18th Essex
John W. Scibak	2nd Hampshire
Karen E. Spilka	Second Middlesex and Norfolk
Cory Atkins	14th Middlesex
Carolyn Dykema	8th Middlesex

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT RELATIVE TO A SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES FOR LOW INCIDENCE POPULATIONS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the department
2 of elementary and secondary education shall make an investigation and a study,
3 subject to appropriation, to determine whether there are sufficient and appropriate
4 services for low incidence students with disabilities and to identify opportunities
5 for administrative efficiencies and cost savings by school districts.

6 There shall be an advisory group chaired by the commissioner of elementary and
7 secondary education or his designee, which shall assist the department in
8 conducting the investigation and study. Members of the advisory group shall
9 include the commissioner of the department of public health or designee, the
10 commissioner of the department of mental retardation or designee, the
11 commissioner of the department of mental health or designee, a representative of
12 the commission for the blind, a representative of the commission for the deaf and
13 hard of hearing; and one person selected by each of the following organizations:
14 the Massachusetts Administrators for Special Education, the Urban
15 Superintendents Group, the Massachusetts Organization of Educational

16 Collaboratives, the Massachusetts Association of 766 Approved Private Schools,
17 the Massachusetts Advocates for Children, the Federation for Children with
18 Special Needs, Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council, the
19 Massachusetts Head Injury Foundation. The commissioner of elementary and
20 secondary education may appoint such other members as he deems necessary to
21 assist the department in carrying out the investigation and study. The advisory
22 group shall advise and assist the department by reviewing available data
23 concerning low incidence students with disabilities; considering current special
24 education program and service delivery structures and placements for low
25 incidence students and their costs; examining programs and services provided by
26 non-educational agencies that support students with disabilities; identifying needs
27 and challenges in transitions from early intervention through post-secondary and
28 adult service systems as well as student relocations from one district to another;
29 identifying best practices for providing high quality and cost-effective services to
30 low incidence students with disabilities; and determining the challenges and
31 opportunities for ensuring coherent, appropriate and cost effective services for
32 students across multiple agencies as they progress from early intervention services
33 to pre-K-12 education and to postsecondary education and adult services,
34 including, but not limited to examining the opportunity for funding to follow a
35 child through the system.

36 The department shall file a report on the results of its investigation and study, and
37 any recommendations relative thereto, with the joint committee on education no
38 later than November 20, 2009.